TACTICAL GEAR HOLDER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to holsters for retaining tactical gear and, more particularly, relates to a holster operably configured to selectively adjust the retention of tactical gear within the holster.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Tactical gear has grown in popularity over the years so much so that tactical gear is no longer exclusively used by members of the military and law enforcement personnel but by a wide majority of the civilian population, as well. Although the use of tactical gear has greatly expanded, the accessories and tools used to organize, store, and compartmentalize tactical gear on a user's clothing is still characterized by significant shortcomings. One principal limitation is the large amount of surface area or "real estate" that existing prior art covers on a user's person. Existing tactical gear holders are overly bulky, heavy, and take up valuable space on law enforcement personnel's duty belts which can be used for additional gear or which can be entirely freed up to allow the user to move around more freely. Additional limitations include having a retention and storage mechanism which does not securely hold the tactical gear in place, thereby resulting in the tactical gear repeatedly coming loose and falling out from the holder during movement, e.g., during pursuit or when running, jumping, or walking, or which requires a series of steps or a prolonged period of time to release the tactical gear stored therein. Further limitations include lack of durability and lack of adjustability, i.e., an inability to store more than one tactical item in the holder at any given time.

[0003] Therefore, a need exists to overcome the problems with the prior art as discussed above.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The invention provides a tactical gear holder that overcomes the hereinafore-mentioned disadvantages of the heretofore-known devices and methods of this general type and that provides a compact, durable, adjustable, and easily deployable holder for tactical gear that can be utilized by professionals and civilians alike. The small and compact dimensions of the tactical gear holder free up valuable surface area and "real estate" on a user's person to allow for additional gear to be attached thereto or to simply provide the user with greater freedom and ease of movement. The structure of the tactical gear holder also beneficially provides a more secure fit of the tactical gear within the tactical gear holder to prevent the tactical gear from inadvertently coming loose or falling out during movement. Further, tactical gear stored within the tactical gear holder can be easily and quickly released for efficient and convenient deployment when the need arises. The present invention also allows a user to selectively vary and adjust the internal volume of the tactical gear holder to accommodate storage of more than one item therein for greater versatility.

[0005] With the foregoing and other objects in view, there is provided, in accordance with the invention, a tactical gear holder comprising a holster body having a lower end, an upper end opposing the lower end and defining an upper aperture sized to receive an article of tactical gear, and a rear sidewall defining an adjustment aperture and with an outer rear side surface and an inner rear side surface opposing the outer rear side surface, a front sidewall opposing the rear sidewall and with an outer front side surface and an inner front side surface opposing the outer front side surface, a left sidewall with an outer left side surface and an inner left side surface opposing the outer left side surface, and a right sidewall opposing the left sidewall and with an outer right side surface and an inner right side surface opposing the outer right side surface, the inner rear side surface, the inner front side surface, the inner left side surface, and the inner right side surface defining and enclosing a body cavity sized to receive the article of tactical gear. The tactical gear holder further comprises an internal gear retention member with an inner retainer surface, an outer retainer surface opposing the inner retainer surface, a first portion coupled to the inner rear side surface of the rear sidewall, and a distal free end operably configured to selectively translate, independent of the first portion of the internal gear retention member, within the body cavity through rotation of a set screw disposed within the adjustment aperture, thereby biasing the article of tactical gear within the body cavity and against the outer retainer surface and the inner front side surface.

[0006] In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the holster body and the internal gear retention member are of a substantially rigid material.

[0007] In accordance with a further feature of the present invention, at least one fastening member is coupled to the outer rear side surface of the rear sidewall and operably configured to securely fasten the holster body to an article of clothing.

[0008] In accordance with one embodiment, the at least one fastening member includes two clasp members with one of the two clasp members operably configured to rotate and mechanically couple to another of the two clasp members to securely fasten the holster body to the article of clothing.

[0009] In accordance with a further feature of the present invention, the body is operably configured to rotate 360° with respect to an attachment point defined by a fastener coupling the at least one fastening member to the body.

[0010] In accordance with another feature, the rear sidewall includes an upper rear edge defining the upper end of the holster body and defines a rear sidewall length separating the upper rear edge of the rear sidewall and the lower end of the holster body and wherein the front sidewall includes an upper front edge defining the upper end of the holster body and defining a front sidewall length separating the upper front edge of the front sidewall and the lower end of the holster body, the rear sidewall length greater than the front sidewall length by at least 10% of the front sidewall length.

[0011] In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the internal gear retention member comprises a proximal end opposite the distal free end, wherein the first portion includes the proximal end of the internal gear retention member and with the inner retainer surface flush against the inner rear side surface of the rear sidewall at the first portion and retained thereto with a fastener.

[0012] In accordance with yet another feature, rotation of the set screw is operably configured to generate an acute angle with respect to the distal free end and the inner rear side surface of the rear sidewall.

[0013] In accordance with another feature of one embodiment of the present invention, the outer retainer surface is substantially planar and the forms curvilinear shape span-